

YELLOWSTONE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

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Yellowstone Master Gardeners, P.O. Box35021, Billings, MT 59107

Bob Wicks was voted as Montana's 2011 Outstanding Master Gardener for the state, and is our featured Master Gardener of the Month. Bob has been with the Yellowstone County Master Gardener program since 2007, but his job with the Billings Water Department kept him from being active in all but the classes. Then in 2010 he retired and became a major mover in our program, by volunteering to coordinate the 2011 Monday evening Master Gardener classes, so working folks could participate. This was the first time evening classes have been offered in our county, and these were very well received, with 28 participants. He kept the Monday evening participants connected by coordinating Monday evening monthly meetings to compliment the Friday afternoon monthly meetings, and by doing so, gave all Master Gardeners a second option to attend our monthly meetings. Bob wasn't done yet, as he picked up coordinating the Billings Downtown Farmers Market Master Gardener Information Booth, Completed Level 3 of the Master Gardener program, and is actively coordinating both the new Grant Committee and the Level 3 Master Gardener Advisory Committee. All this plus running his own lawn and landscape care business Wicks Lawn Care. We so appreciate all the thought, time and passion he has plugged into our program. Truly a great example of how one person can make such a difference.

But what's the rest of his story? Here's more: -Bob likes volunteering with the Master Gardener program because he likes to meet and interact with new people.-Has only gardened in our local area.-Garden passion is flowers, but especially daylilies. He's also very fond of Aspen trees.-Hobbies include woodworking...building furniture, restoring a 1959 Willy's station wagon, 3 labs...Woody, Gus and Sally, reading...murder mysteries and history, and traveling with wife Debbie.-Has 5 children between the two of them, 10 grandchildren with the 11th on the way in March. -Wife Debbie was a friend before they started dating. They have been married for 17 years, and she works for Wells Fargo. -He was born in Colorado, his Dad was an Extension Agriculture Agent. Moved from Colorado when he was 5 years old to Superior MT, then lived in Culbertson MT, Bozeman MT, and then to the Billings area at age 12, and has been in the area ever since, currently residing in Park City. -Tips for Master Gardeners – water trees independently from lawn watering...and keep lawn thatch down with aeration or power raking.-Biggest horticulture challenge is weed control. -He likes to have fun and be around people...loves to learn new things, and tries to learn something new every day.-Bob wants to thank everyone in Yellowstone County for voting for him for Master Gardener of the Year.

Calendar and Events

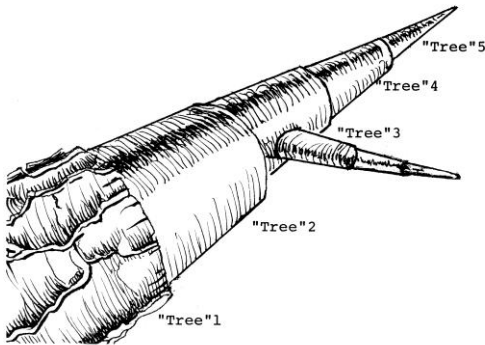
- **ASAP** -Please get your hours turned into Amy. Awards will be given out in January.
- January 4th-6th - Montana Green Expo sponsored by Montana Nursery and Landscape.
www.plantingmt.com
- January meeting-Friday, Jan.13th and Monday, Jan16th.
- The Master Gardener program for 2012 will begin on Friday, February 3rd to March 30th and Monday, February 6th to March 26th. Let everyone know.
<http://www.mtmastergardener.org>
- The Northwest Flower & Garden Show is February 8th-12th. www.gardenshow.com
.Check it out. We have 14 going from our area.

DO TREES HEAL???

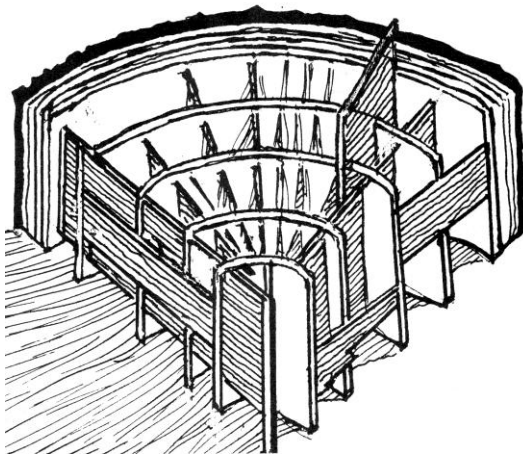
Submitted By: Corry Mordeaux

Guess what? They do not! Wait a minute... I prune my tree and the wound heals up. Nope! Let me introduce you to the funny abbreviation ... CODIT. This stands for Compartmentalization Of Decay In Trees. OK, this is pretty fuzzy. Let's dig a bit deeper.

We need to look at trees as being a tree within a tree. So each annual ring that you see in cross section is actually a tree.

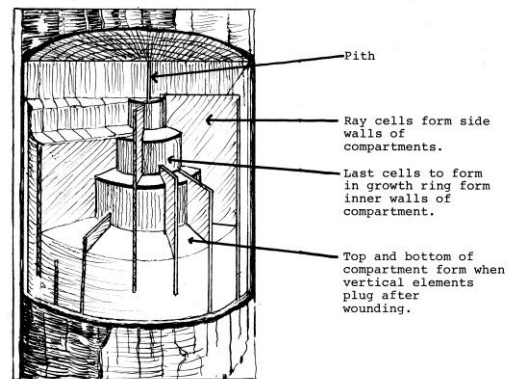


If we look at a cross section of a tree, we see the annual rings (tree within a tree) but we also see ray cells from the center to the outside.



Now hold those two pictures in your mind for a moment. As you well know, animals heal or restore a wound or infection to a healthy condition. Trees wall off or compartmentalize injured tissues. So trees have no healing abilities. They wall off or isolate the injury.

With the previous pictures in mind, CODIT is based on “walls” ... top, bottom, and sides. These walls are in the growth rings and are penetrated by “tubes” (vessels or tracheids) that move liquids mostly upwards. When injured, the tree shut off the pipes making a sealed compartment. If the tree is slow to respond, the infection spreads up or down the pipes. With the pipes plugged, the disease or infection is trapped in the compartment. If the walls are weak or the pipes are not plugged the infection can spread. Some organisms and insects



are able to continue to work through the walls. The cambium forms the most important barrier wall separating infection from new wood. This new wood is seen growing around a wound. A good example of CODIT is provided by the reference for this article. “Another way to look at this situation is to show how it is similar to a battleship. A battleship is a very slow moving vehicle. It is highly compartmented. When it is hit the survival of the ship depends on the ability of the crew to close off the areas hit by a shell or torpedo. When the crew is very active and the ship has preset construction that permits effective walling off, the “injury” can be limited to a small space. But, if the crew is sluggish, and the preset construction of the ship is weak, then the injury could cause severe problems – the ship could sink”.

The basis and diagrams for this article come from the National Arborist Association Home Study Course and is based on research conducted and published by Dr. Alex L. Shigo

Flower of the Month - Amaryllis-One of a Kind



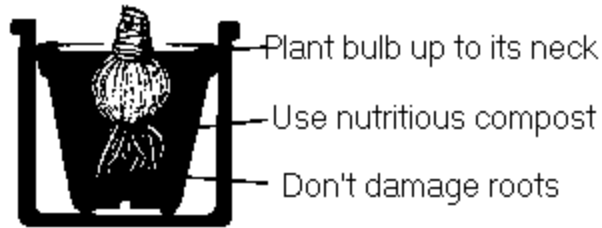
Of all flowering bulbs, amaryllis are the easiest to bring to bloom. This can be accomplished indoors or out, and over an extended period of time. The amaryllis originated in South America's tropical regions and has the botanical name *Hippeastrum*. The large flowers and ease with which they can be brought to bloom make amaryllis popular and in demand worldwide. The amaryllis comes in many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white.

Preparation for Planting

The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees F.

Planting

Plant bulbs in nutritious potting compost, many are available pre-mixed. Plant the bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.



Placement and Watering

Plant the bulb, or place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop after it has reached full growth.

Flowering Period

Bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks as a general rule. In winter the flowering time will be longer than in spring. Set up your planting schedule between October and April with this in mind. To achieve continuous bloom, plant at intervals of 2 weeks for stunning color in your home or garden.

After-Bloom Care

After-Flowering. After the amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Leaf Growth and Development. Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the early fall, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Bulb Storage. Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50 deg. F), dark place such as the crisper of your refrigerator for a minimum of 6 weeks. *Caution:* Do not store amaryllis bulbs in a refrigerator that contains apples, this will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Plant Again. After 6 weeks you may remove bulbs whenever you would like to plant them. Plant bulbs 8 weeks before you would like them to bloom.

Courtesy of amaryllis.com Check out their web site for more information.

Here are some amaryllis Quick Tips:

- Planting Period: October until the end of April.
- Flowering Period: Late December until the end of June.
- Flowering time is 7-10 weeks.
- Larger bulbs produce more flowers.
- Always store un-planted bulbs in a cool place between 40-50 deg.

-Marcella Manuel



I would like to remember Vicki Thomas, who was with our Master Gardener program 2004-2005, who passed away in her home sometime around Nov. 17, 2011. She was our Gainan's lady, extremely knowledgeable in the field of horticulture, and was most helpful in securing the many plants used for the Metra Demonstration garden all these years. She also hosted a few Gainan's seminars and Christmas tours at Gainan's for the Master Gardener monthly meeting. She was 63 and had no survivors. For those of us who knew her, there will likely be a Memorial service held at Gainan's. Mick will let us know when.

January

- ✓ Time to start planning your garden and flower beds.
 - ✓ Get seeds ordered early.
 - ✓ Start pruning your trees and shrubs while dormant.
 - ✓ Check your trees and shrubs for any animal damage and take action sooner than later. Are your tree wraps still in place?
 - ✓ Check for dryness around trees and shrubs. Do they need a drink?
 - ✓ Check your stored bulbs for mold and moisture. Also a good time to check on your stored vegetables for the same.
 - ✓ Houseplants can be headed back or transplanted.
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Your Favorite Garden Tip

If plagued by purslane, pull all small plants, being sure to get every leaf, and put in a bag for the garbage. If you already have a carpet and don't plan on eating it all, smother it all with at least 3-4 inches of grass clippings. It works. I found this tip in Alice Hamiltons' column in the Billings Gazette years ago. Sheri Kisch

If you have a favorite tip, please submit to our new newsletter website

ymastergardener@gmail.com

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News Flash from Corry Mordeaux

TIDBIT: The Alaska Master Gardener course is available, on line, to Montana Master Gardeners. It is a good course and is somewhat interactive and comes with the M/G handbook. If interested, contact Heidi Rader at 907-452-8251 ext 3477 or hbrader@alaska.edu. The downside: It will cost you \$300 big ones!

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Wanted

If you are looking for an item that maybe someone else might sell, trade or give away, send the information our way.

For Sale

If you have anything for sale, give us a listing and contact here.